

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2025

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

BOOKLIST FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN



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On the Cover: Kaylin Melia George,
author of *Aloha Everything*

Photographed by
Carmella Kaleleonalani George



CHILDREN



Aloha Everything

Kaylin Melia George
(illustrated by
Mae Waite)

As a young Native Hawaiian girl starts dancing the hula, she learns how the dance tells the story of her people.

J PICTURE GEORGE K



Any Way You Look

Maleeha Siddiqui

Aspiring fashion designer Ainy is excited to spend a summer working at her mom's clothing store — and to take steps

toward wearing a hijab — but bullies and boy trouble cause her to lean on her family in ways she didn't expect.

J FICTION SIDDIQUI M

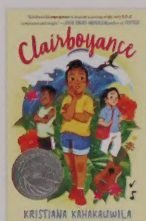


Ava Lin, Best Friend!

Vicky Fang

Ava is determined to find a best friend on her first day of first grade but doesn't know how to go about it.

J EARLY CHAPTER FANG V



Clairboyance

Kristiana Kahakauwila

After a fight with her best friend Leo, Native Hawaiian tween Clara makes a wish to understand what boys are thinking. Now, she can

hear her male classmates' thoughts, but all her attempts at helping them backfire.

J SCIFI FANTASY KAHAKAUW K



Continental Drifter

Kathy MacLeod

Kathy spends her summers in Maine and the rest of the year in Bangkok but struggles to feel at home in both places.

J GRAPHIC CONTINEN DRIFTER



The Door Is Open: Stories of Celebration and Community by 11 Desi Voices

edited by Hena Khan

Centering on a fictional New Jersey community center, this collection of stories by and about South Asians tackles topics from first crushes to family drama to racism.

J FICTION DOOR IS OPEN

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



**A Dozen
Delicious Donuts** ◻
Chanda Ouk Wolf
(illustrated by
Juliet Yenglin)

Massachusetts author Wolf celebrates love, resilience, and how food can unite generations. She also shares a recipe for her family's Cambodian donuts!

J PICTURE WOLF C



**Gigi Shin Is
Not a Nerd** ◻ ◻
Lyla Lee

Seventh-grader Gigi starts a tutoring club with her friends to raise money for attending art camp, but friendship troubles and STEM-focused parents make it harder than she thought.

J FICTION LEE L



I'm from Here Too
Kashmira Sheth

Anoop reflects on faith and identity as his patka, a Sikh headpiece, draws unwanted attention while his grandpa approaches

the end of his life.

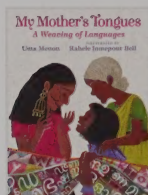
J FICTION SHETH K



Isabel in Bloom ◻
Mae Respicio

Joining her school's gardening and cooking clubs helps 12-year-old Isabel adjust to life in the US after leaving the Philippines.

J FICTION RESPICIO M



**My Mother's Tongues:
A Weaving of Languages**
Uma Menon (illustrated
by Rahele Jomepour Bell)

Sumi celebrates how her mom speaks both English and Malayalam and loves that she is growing up multilingual!

J PICTURE MENON U

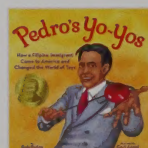


Noodle & Bao ☀
Shaina Lu

When a fancy new restaurant starts making life in Town 99 too expensive, Momo and her best friend Bao dream up

ways to save their community.

J GRAPHIC NOODLE AND BAO



Pedro's Yo-Yos ◻
Rob Peñas (illustrated
by Carl Angel)

Learn all about how a Filipino immigrant created a classic toy: the yo-yo!

J BIOG GV1216 .P46 2024



Seoul Food
Erin Danielle Russell
(illustrated by
Tamisha Anthony)

When her grandparents visit, Hana decides to cook a meal that represents both her Korean and Black Southern heritages.

J PICTURE RUSSELL E

◻ available as an audiobook
◻ available as an eBook
☀ graphic novel

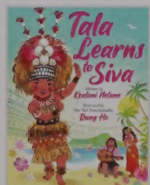


Simone
Viet Thanh Nguyen
 (illustrated by
 Minnie Phan)

While they seek shelter

from a wildfire, Simone
 uses her love for art, and her mom
 uses her experience as a Vietnamese
 refugee to help everyone heal.

J PICTURE NGUYEN V



Tala Learns to Siva
Kealani Netane
 (illustrated by Dung Ho)

Tala wants to be as
 good as her aunt at the
 taualuga, a traditional

Samoa dance. When she freezes
 during a performance, how will she
 find the strength to keep going?

J PICTURE NETANE K



Unhappy Camper 🌩️
Lily LaMotte
 (illustrated by Ann Xu)

Twin sisters try to rebuild
 their bond at a summer
 camp for Taiwanese
 Americans, where one

is a junior counselor and the other
 worries more about popularity.

J GRAPHIC UNHAPPY CAMPER



A Very Asian Guide to Malaysian and Singaporean Food

Shuli de la Fuente-Lau
 (illustrated by Ann Jaafar)

Explore classic and
 modern Malaysian

and Singaporean foods through fun
 facts, illustrations, and recipes.

J TX724.5.M4 F84 2024



Wat Kept Playing 🏀

Emily Inouye Huey
 (illustrated by
 Kaye Kang)

The life of Wataru Misaka, the NBA's
 first non-white and first Asian player, is
 presented as a colorful picture book.

J BIOG GV884.M56 I56 2024

TEEN



Eighteen Roses
Shannon C. F. Rogers

Lucia isn't interested
 in a traditional Filipino
 debut, but at her mother's
 insistence, she'll need
 to make 18 friends
 in time for her debutante ball.

TEEN FICTION ROGERS S



Everything We Never Had 🗨️
Randy Ribay

Four generations of
 Filipino American boys
 from the same family
 grapple with identity,
 masculinity, and the future.

TEEN FICTION RIBAY R



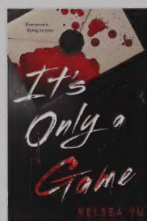
I'll Be Waiting for You »

Mariko Turk

Natalie doesn't believe in ghosts but is still excited to hunt them on camera for a senior project. From recruiting her rival for

help, to lingering grief from her best friend's death, to strange noises and visions, her project won't go as planned.

TEEN FICTION TURK M



It's Only a Game »

Kelsea Yu

Marina's online gaming team will be framed for murder unless they survive four rounds of a very dangerous game.

TEEN MYSTERY YU K



The Misdirection of Fault Lines ◻

Anna Gracia

Three teen tennis players navigate how — and whether — the sport will fit into their futures

while at an elite competition.

TEEN FICTION GRACIA A



Not Your Average Jo »

Grace K. Shim

Riley Jo wants to perform indie rock, but her bandmates sideline her and suggest she try K-pop. She'll have to take the

stage on her own for a contest, but will it be enough to land a record deal?

TEEN FICTION SHIM G



Payal Mehta's Romance Revenge Plot ◻ »

Preeti Chhibber

Payal's plans to make her crush fall for her are complicated by his microaggressions and her own budding feelings for her archnemesis.

TEEN FICTION CHHIBBER P



Rules for Rule Breaking »

Talia Tucker

When lifelong enemies Winter and Bobby end up on a road trip to tour colleges together, they

decide to break as many "rules" as possible, and discover that their rivalry might be an indication of something more.

TEEN FICTION TUCKER T



Stay with My Heart ◻ »

Tashie Bhuiyan

After accidentally sabotaging a local band, Liana makes it her mission to help them succeed without them knowing about her mistake — all while falling for the band's leader.

TEEN FICTION BHUIYAN T

» available as an audiobook

◻ available as an eBook

graphic novel



This Book Won't Burn

Samira Ahmed

Noor wants to keep her head down and go unnoticed when she's forced to spend the last quarter of senior year at a

new school. But when the school board votes to remove hundreds of books from the library, she can't stay silent.

TEEN FICTION AHMED S



Connie : A Memoir

Connie Chung

Connie Chung, the first and only Asian woman to co-anchor the CBS Evening news, shares her remarkable journey, from her family history to her groundbreaking success in television news, and the challenges she faced along the way.

BLOG PN4874.C518 A3 2024



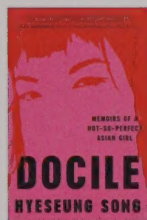
True Love and Other Impossible Odds

Christina Li

College freshman Grace creates an algorithm for finding people's perfect matches. As it becomes

clear that numbers can't create feelings, she starts questioning who she's attracted to, her family obligations, and what she wants out of college.

TEEN FICTION LI C



Docile: Memoirs of a Not-So-Perfect Asian Girl

Hyeseung Song

Determined to succeed in a world that often overlooked her, Song excelled

academically, but she yearned to pursue her artistic dreams. Opposition from her mother led to periods of depression and struggle, yet with resilience, Song embarked on a transformative journey of healing and self-discovery.

BLOG E184.K6 S66 2024

MEMOIR



Advocate: A Graphic Memoir of Family, Community, and the Fight for Environmental Justice

Eddie Ahn

In his debut graphic memoir, environmental activist Ahn illustrates his journey from growing up in Texas to law school to San Francisco's environmental commission.

GRAPHIC GE235.C2 A36 2024



Feeding Ghosts: A Graphic Memoir

Tessa Hulls

Hulls exposes the haunting legacy of fear and trauma, balanced

by the enduring power of love, through the complex bond between three generations of women: her Chinese grandmother, her mother, and herself.

GRAPHIC E184.C5 H8596 2024



Loud: Accept Nothing Less Than the Life You Deserve 📖🔊

Drew Afualo

Afualo, the internet's "Crusader for Women," candidly shares her

personal journey, from childhood experiences and romantic relationships to the evolution of her self-confidence.

PN4587.2.A38 A3 2024



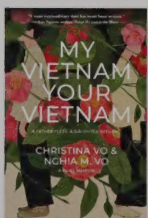
Manboobs: A Memoir of Musicals, Visas, Hope, and Cake 📖

Komail Aijazuddin

Now a visual artist based in New York, Aijazuddin reflects on his childhood

in Lahore and the experience of being too visibly queer for Pakistan, but "too Pakistani" to be embraced by gay culture in the United States.

BIOG PS360.I37 A3 2024



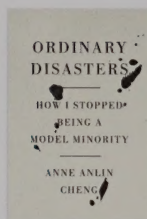
My Vietnam, Your Vietnam: A Father Flees. A Daughter Returns. 📖🔊

Christina Vo & Nghia M. Vo

In a dual memoir, father Nghia M. Vo's memories of Vietnam, the homeland

he fled following the fall of Saigon, contrast with those of his American-born daughter Christina, who moved to Hanoi as an adult in search of her heritage.

BIOG E184.V53 V63 2024



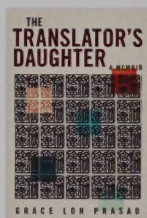
Ordinary Disasters: How I Stopped Being a Model Minority 📖🔊

Anne Anlin Cheng

Navigating the complexities of being a daughter of immigrant parents

and the mother of an interracial family while grappling with personal health issues, including depression and anxiety, Cheng challenges the "model minority" stereotype.

BIOG E184.T35 C476 2024



The Translator's Daughter 📖

Grace Loh Prasad

The aging of Prasad's parents, the interpreters she has always relied upon to help navigate

her native Taiwan, inspires her to reflect on the unique experience of claiming her heritage while living in diaspora.

BIOG E184.T35 P73 2024



Viewfinder: A Memoir of Seeing and Being Seen 📖

Jon M. Chu & Jeremy McCarter

As a shy and self-conscious child, Chu was always

praised for his creativity by his mother. He candidly discusses his struggles with self-doubt growing up, the challenges he faced as an Asian American filmmaker breaking into Hollywood, and the crucial importance of finding his own unique voice.

BIOG PN1998.3.C6563 A3 2024

🔊 available as an audiobook

📖 available as an eBook

🖼️ graphic novel



Where Rivers Part: A Story of My Mother's Life

Kao Kalia Yang

Yang chronicles the extraordinary journey of her mother and her family,

as they navigate the harrowing realities of war, displacement, and cultural upheaval, highlighting the Hmong people's history and their unwavering resilience.

BLOG E184.H55 Y375 2024



Corky Lee's Asian America: Fifty Years of Photographic Justice

Corky Lee
(edited by Chee Wang
Ng & Mae Ngai)

Featuring over 200 photographs by the photographer Corky Lee alongside personal anecdotes and reflections, this collection documents five decades of Asian American history and activism.

TR681.A75 L44 2024

NONFICTION



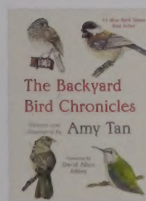
Asian American Is Not a Color

OiYan A. Poon

Through a range of interviews, Poon examines the divergent ways Asian Americans conceive of their

identity, and how this identity impacts their approach to affirmative action.

E184.A75 P66 2024



The Backyard Bird Chronicles

Amy Tan

Renowned novelist Amy Tan records her experiences observing birds in her backyard

through daily entries, thoughtful reflections, and original sketches.

QL677.5 .T26 2024



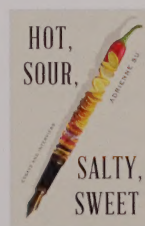
Dear Elia: Letters from the Asian American Abyss

Mimi Khúc

Through intimate letters, Khúc addresses the mental health

crisis in higher education and the internalized pressure of the Asian model minority myth. The book also includes interactive activities for readers.

RC451.5.A75 K483 2024



Hot, Sour, Salty, Sweet: Essays and Interviews

Adrienne Su

In a collection of essays, poems and interviews, Su candidly describes her experiences and

thoughts living as an Asian American, from Georgia in the 1980s to Boston and present-day Pennsylvania, linking them to food culture and poetry.

PS3569.U13 H68 2024

available as an audiobook

available as an eBook

graphic novel



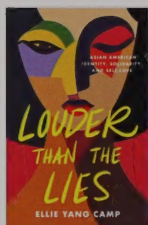
The Literature of Japanese American Incarceration

edited by Frank Abe & Floyd Cheung

Arranged in chronological order, this collection

includes prose, poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and manga that depict the lives of Japanese Americans before and after incarceration during World War II.

PS508.J36 L58 2024



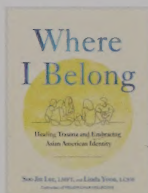
Louder Than the Lies

Ellie Yang Camp

In essays about Asian American identity and the complexities of racialization, educator Camp encourages readers

to face uncomfortable truths, challenge prejudice, and embrace self-love as an act of liberation.

E184.A75 C35 2024



Where I Belong: Healing Trauma and Embracing Asian American Identity

Soo Jin Lee & Linda Yoon

Written by two Asian American therapists,

this book explores various forms of trauma within the Asian community and offers therapeutic tools to help readers embrace their Asian American identity and culture while healing.

RC451.5.A75 L44 2024

FOOD WRITING



Amrikan: 125 Recipes From the Indian American Diaspora

Khushbu Shah

Inspired by the Indian American diaspora, Shah

explores both traditional recipes and fusion cooking. She encourages cooks to give it all a try while sharing personal stories from her life, giving readers a list of simple-to-find pantry staples and some clever tips and tricks.

TX724.5.I4 S53 2024



Banchan: 60 Korean American Recipes for Delicious, Shareable Sides

Caroline Choe

Banchan are the small

shareable sides that are the center of Korean meals. Choe shares classic recipes and Korean American twists, giving both new and experienced cooks a great place to start exploring this unique part of Korean cooking.

TX724.5.K65 C455 2024

 available as an audiobook

 available as an eBook

 graphic novel



Breaking Bao: 88 Bakes and Snacks from Asia and Beyond

Clarice Lam

Lam introduces the reader to unique combinations

of Asian flavors with global techniques in this approachable but rigorous baking book, starting with base recipes for doughs and breads like shokupan and mantou and adding interesting twists.

TX763 .L265 2024



Chinese Enough: Homestyle Recipes for Noodles, Dumplings, Stir-Fries, and More

Kristina Cho

Cho highlights the multiple

facets of her own Chinese American experience through this cookbook, which showcases not only traditional Cantonese recipes but also American interpretations like banh mi pasta salad and smashed ranch cucumbers.

TX724.5.C5 C5655 2024



Đặc Biệt: An Extra-Special Vietnamese Cookbook

Nini Nguyen

Explore Vietnamese American cuisine through the lens of a chef born

and raised in New Orleans. In this wide-ranging book, Nguyen shows you how to throw a spring roll party, make a Viet Cajun seafood boil or rice rolls her way or her grandma's way, with that little "extra" twist that gives this book its charm.

TX724.5.V5 N4946 2024



Healthy, My Way: Real Food, Real Flavor, Real Good

My Nguyen

Nguyen, creator of "My Healthy Dish", draws

from her Vietnamese heritage as well as pan-Asian flavors to create quick and accessible recipes that minimize carbs, fats, and processed sugar while focusing on protein and vegetables.

TX724.5.A1 N496 2024



Wafu Cooking: Everyday Recipes with Japanese Style

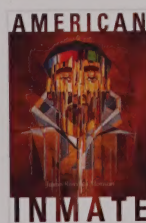
Sonoko Sakai

Wafu, or "Japanese style", explores Japanese

ingredients and techniques in exchange with the rest of the world. Recipes such as dashi cheese grits and pasta with miso bolognese sauce showcase Sakai's own identity as Japanese American with European roots who has lived globally.

TX724.5.J3 S255 2024

POETRY



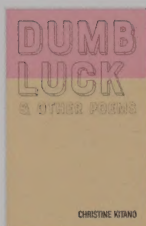
American Inmate

Justin Rovillos Monson

This debut collection of poems, by a man who hopes to be released from the Michigan Department of Corrections in 2027,

sings against erasure and beyond the confines of incarceration. Intimacy and violence, life and death, loneliness and longing exist side-by-side.

PS3613.05388 A44 2024

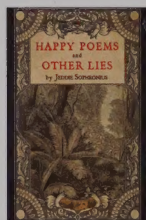


Dumb Luck & Other Poems **Christine Kitano**

Winner of the Robert Phillips Poetry Chapbook prize, this slim volume of poems portrays a young

Asian American woman navigating extremely personal moments like the examination of her uterus, as well as larger current events like the pandemic and murder of George Floyd.

PS3611.I8775 D86 2024



Happy Poems and Other Lies

Jeddie Sophronius

Sophronius' poignant poems explore themes of childhood and belonging, dreams and death. His poems drift

and soar between past and present, and meditate on leaving, living life always as a kind of visitor, and uncertain returns.

PR9500.9.S67 H37 2024



The Invention of the Darling

Li-Young Lee

The mythic voice of Lee's poems moves from hummingbirds to serpents to wrens, singing

in his familiar yet singularly lyrical style. These philosophically infused poems, filled with love and longing, ask to be read again and again.

PS3562.E35438 .I58 2024



We the Gathered Heat: Asian American and Pacific Islander Poetry, Performance, and Spoken Word

edited by Franny Choi, Bao Phi, No'u

Revilla & Terisa Siagatonu

This anthology, revealing just a sliver of the magnificent multiplicity of the AAPI community, includes immigrant, refugee, and indigenous poets, performers, and storytellers. Each chapter is titled with a verb: "Talk Story," "Mourn," "Pronounce," "Fight," and "Love."

PS591.A75 W42 2024



With My Back to the World

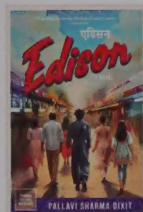
Victoria Chang

Winner of the Forward Prize for Best Collection of Poetry, Chang's latest collection explores sadness and

depression, solitude and community, and the interior and exterior in formats ranging from prose poems to poems in a grid.

PS3603.H3575 W58 2024

FICTION



Edison □

Pallavi Sharma Dixit

In this loving send-up to Bollywood romance, an aimless young man leaves India to pursue the American dream in Edison, New Jersey.

Will the help of the local aunties and a well-choreographed musical number be enough to win his love interest's heart?

FICTION DIXIT P



The Eyes Are the Best Part □ ▯

Monika Kim

A Korean American college student reaches her breaking point when her parents' marriage dissolves.

Haunted by the blue eyes of her mother's loathsome new boyfriend, she begins to execute a gory revenge for a lifetime's worth of racist, misogynistic fetishism.

FICTION KIM M



How to Fall in Love in a Time of Unnameable Disaster □

Muriel Leung

In a New York City devastated by earthquakes and acid rain, Mira leaves

her partner in Queens and returns to her childhood home on the Lower East Side. Together with the other residents, both living and dead, she builds a new community amidst the chaos.

FICTION LEUNG M



Koan Khmer

Bunkong Tuon

In this autobiographical novel, Cambodian refugee Samnang immigrates to America but feels disconnected from both

his family and his peers. As he grows up and becomes a writer, he is finally able to come to terms with the trauma of his past.

FICTION TUON B



Linh Ly Is Doing Just Fine □ ▯

Thao Votang

When 27-year-old Linh's divorced mother begins dating again, her worries quickly spiral into obsession.

FICTION VOTANG T



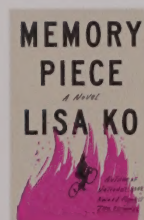
Love Can't Feed You ▯ ▯

Cherry Lou Sy

Seventeen-year-old Queenie is dismayed when her family is finally reunited in New York after a long flight from the Philippines,

only to find her mother a stranger.

FICTION SY C



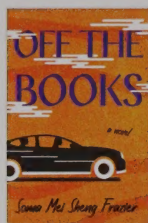
Memory Piece □ ▯

Lisa Ko

Three Asian American girls, destined to become a performance artist, a computer scientist, and an activist, meet in the

suburbs in the '80s and forge a lifelong connection which will sustain them in the dystopian future of the 2040s.

FICTION KO L



Off the Books □

Soma Mei Sheng Frazier

Ivy League dropout Měi Brown's resolve to stay out of her clients' business is tested when she's hired to chauffeur Henry Lee

and his mysterious, very heavy suitcase from San Francisco to Syracuse.

FICTION FRAZIER S



A Professional Lola and Other Stories □

E.P. Tuazon

This collection of thirteen short stories explores themes of family throughout the Filipino diaspora, including the

title story, in which the actress hired to portray a family's deceased grandmother proves almost uncannily convincing.

FICTION TUAZON E



Real Americans □

Rachel Khong

Skipping forward and backward in time, the three-generation saga of the Chen family raises issues of race, class, and

the ethics of genetic engineering.

FICTION KHONG R



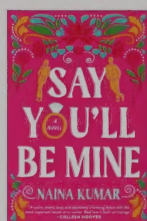
Rental House □

Weike Wang

The fault lines in the marriage between Chinese American Keru and her white husband Nate are slowly exposed during the course

of two family vacations with their in-laws.

FICTION WANG W



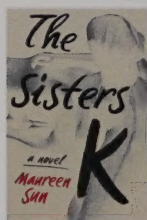
Say You'll Be Mine □

Naina Kumar

Karthik needs a fake fiancée so his mother will stop setting him up. Meghna needs a date for her ex's wedding.

It's a perfect arrangement... right?

ROMANCE KUMAR N



The Sisters K □

Maureen Sun

In a contemporary update of Dostoyevsky's classic novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, three estranged Korean American sisters

are reunited by the impending death of their manipulative, abusive father.

FICTION SUN M



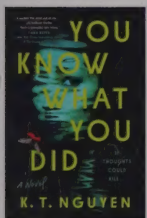
Tehrangelles 📖🔊

Porochista Khakpour

Lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic turn life (and a reality TV show deal) upside-down for the four daughters of

the ultra-wealthy Milani family in this satirical novel that blends *Little Women* with *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*.

FICTION KHAKPOUR P



You Know What You Did 📖🔊

K. T. Nguyen

After the sudden death of her mother, a Vietnam War refugee, Ahn "Annie" Shaw's OCD worsens, and she

begins to experience blackouts. When she awakens in a hotel room next to a dead body, could she have been responsible?

FICTION NGUYEN K



ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

BOOKLIST FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN



City of Boston

Michelle Wu, *Mayor*

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

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